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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Everett, et al. )  
Serial No: 09/431,546 ) Art Unit: 1635  
Filed: October 29, 1999 ) Examiner: McGarry, Sean  
For: Peptides with Enhanced Stability )  
to Protease Degradation )

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed in connection with the above-identified application on May 7, 2003, the claims have been amended as shown below in the claim listing. This response is submitted along with a Petition for a One Month Extension of Time, to and including September 8, 2003, along with a Request for Continued Examination.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. **Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.